

May 22, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I wonder if Senator Goodrich would yield to a question or two.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes.

SENATOR RUMERY: Do you have specific information of fraudulent acts that have been perpetrated on the public with some of these private schools?

SENATOR GOODRICH: I don't have it here at my desk where I can give it to you. I've got a file being built up on it. I've got the World Herald evidence. I don't have it here. The story that appeared in the night before last World Herald where the federal auditors were coming in on this. There is actually four different federal agencies that are cooperating in the audit. Frankly, I wanted us to be in a position to cooperate with those audit teams when they did come in. For example, I talked recently to Ann Campbell, the new Commissioner of Education, about what supervision these proprietary schools, and Senator Koch is absolutely right I don't mean private school in the sense that it's Creighton University or something like that or Doane College or Bellevue College, that's not the kind of private schools I'm looking for. I agree, the word private should be amended to proprietary. I was talking to her about the supervision that these schools get after she introduces ... issues rather the license to them. She said "Frankly, they have very little labor force with which to supervise the operation of these schools". It's for that reason, that coupled with the announcement of the federal teams coming in, that made me decide that we better be prepared at least to cooperate with those federal teams when they do get here.

SENATOR RUMERY: Are there laws that already take care of improper acts that these schools might engage in?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Frankly, I haven't done the study yet. I'd have to check to see what the statutes provide for in the State of Nebraska. That would be the first thing that I would do if I was successful at getting this resolution adopted and getting the study commenced. Before we even adopt this I'm going to propose a motion to amend it to the pro ... strike the word "private" and substitute "proprietary". One of the first steps we do is to review the statutes as they are now on the books to see what we have, then we can keep those in mind as we make the study and determine at the end what we need.

SENATOR RUMERY: Thank you. Mr. President, I'm glad to hear Senator Goodrich. I think it's very important that we do thoroughly search the statutes to find out what can be done now. We had an experience with one of our bills this year that had come before us. After we had a large number of conferences on it we found out that we already had laws in existence that would take care of the problem. I was approaching this, I guess, with a little bit of caution along this line. I think we definitely need to be